

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0383

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NU, CS

SUBJECT: "LA NACION" INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA

1. ON JANUARY 24, 25, AND 26, "LA NACION" PUBLISHED IN THREE PARTS A DETAILED INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA. THE INTERVIEW COVERED MAINLY THE SANDINISTA ATTACK OF DECEMBER 27, THE CURRENT CASE AGAINST JOURNALIST PEDRO CHAMORRO AND SOMOZA'S PLANS FOR THE RURAL POOR.

2. IN THE FIRST PART OF THE INTERVIEW SOMOZA SPOKE OF THE SANDINISTAS WHOM HE CLAIMED HAVE ALL BEEN IDENTIFIED. HE DESCRIBED THEM AS "USEFUL FOOLS" HAVING BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA FOR CASTRO'S USE IN INTERVENING IN THE AFFAIRS OF HEMISPHERE NATIONS. SOMOZA ALSO DISCUSSED HIS PLANS TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO THE OAS AS PROOF OF CASTRO'S CONTINUED POLICY OF INTERVENTION. HE ALSO DESCRIBED NICARAGUA AS CALM AND "NORMALIZED" AFTER THE DECEMBER 27 INCIDENT.

3. IN THE SECOND PART, SOMOZA DISCUSSED THE CASE PENDING AGAINST JOURNALIST PEDRO CHAMORRO. HE SAID CHAMORRO WAS A GREAT FRIEND OF THE SANDINISTAS AND CLAIMED THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL THAT IS JUDGING CHAMORRO HAS FOUND THAT CHAMORRO'S PUBLICATIONS BEFORE THE SANDINISTA ATTACK INDICATE THAT HE WAS PRIVY TO THEIR  
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PLANS. SOMOZA ALSO SAID THAT CHAMORRO'S LIFE IS NOT

IN DANGER BECAUSE "THAT IS WHAT HE WOULD LIKE-TO BE  
A MARTYR."

4. IN THE FINAL PART OF THE INTERVIEW SOMOZA DESCRIBED  
HIS PLANS FOR INCREASED HELP TO THE COMPEINONS. THESE  
PLANS INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THEM, AN INSTITUTE FOR  
CAMPEINO WELFARE AND AN AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM WHICH  
WILL BENEFIT 500,000 BY 1980. SOMOZA DESCRIBED IN  
AFFIRMATIVE TERMS THE GRAIN SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, HIS  
RELATIONS WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF MANAGUA, AND HIS PERSONAL STATE OF HEALTH. HE ALSO  
EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR PEACE BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND  
HONDURAS, AND FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMON MARKET.

5. ON JANUARY 26 "LA NACION" ALSO PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW  
WITH PEDRO CHAMORRO IN WHICH THE JOURNALIST REJECTED  
COMPLETELY ALL CHARGES AGAINST HIMSELF. HE SAID HE HAS  
REJECTED THE IDEA OF ASYLUM BECAUSE HE WANTS TO CONTINUE  
THE FIGHT AGAINST SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA. HOWEVER, HE  
EXPECTS TO BE IMPRISONED BECAUSE THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
WAS NOT FORMED "TO GIVE ME A DIPLOMA IN RECOGNITION OF  
MY GOOD WORK."

6. CLIPPINGS OF THE INTERVIEWS WILL BE POUCHED TO  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA.  
LANE

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